CALL FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENT LEADERS

Applications are now open for the new Indigenous Students’ Leadership and Mentorship Program, an initiative out of the Territory Government’s $42 million Building Better Schools package.

Employment, Education and Training Minister Syd Stirling said the program aimed to nurture the talents and celebrate the successes of Indigenous students in the Territory.

“Students chosen to participate in the program will work with mentors who will provide them with guidance and encouragement as they progress through their schooling year,” he said.

“They will also take part in a range of activities tailored to develop their particular skills and interests. They will participate in motivational workshops, team-building forums and a challenging outdoor camp to build their practical leadership skills.

“It is important that we support and nurture talented Indigenous students to ensure they achieve their full potential and become role models for other students.”

The Program is part of the Territory Government’s commitment of an extra $15.84 million to improving Indigenous education by fostering stronger links between schools and local communities, particularly in remote areas.

“We recognise that this is a key element of success in delivering quality programs to young Indigenous people, especially in the bush,” Mr Stirling said.

“As well as calling on Indigenous students to apply to this program, I also encourage members of the community who might be interested in mentoring an Indigenous student to get on board and assist with the program.

“It is one way that we can help prepare our Indigenous youth in both remote and urban areas for a successful adulthood.”

Mr Stirling said other initiatives under Government’s Building Better Schools package were currently being implemented or developed.

Applications for the Indigenous Student Leadership and Mentorship Program close on the 19 August 2005. Further details are available from ISLMP School Contacts, online at www.betterschools.nt.gov.au/islmp or by telephoning the ISLMP Coordinator on 8901 1384.

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